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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08800 031308Z

41
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 076517
O 031107Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0356

S E C R E T SEOUL 8800

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KS, US
SUBJECT: ALLEGED BUGGING OF BLUE HOUSE

REF: STATE 269983

1. I INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER PAK NOVEMBER 3 THAT AFTER MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WE HAD CONCLUDED WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE REQUESTED PUBLIC DENIAL OF BLUE HOUSE BUGGING. I CAREFULLY REVIEWED EACH OF THE REASONS GIVEN IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS WAS A STANDING GLOBAL POLICY TO WHICH WE WERE NOT ABLE TO MAKE EXCEPTION. I ALSO MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT IF STORY OF OUR PRIVATE ASSURANCES LEAKED OUR REACTION WOULD BE "NO COMMENT."

2. EVIDENCING CONSTERNATION AT THIS REPLY, PAK PRESSED ME AS TO WHAT WE WOULD SAY IN EVENT IT BECAME KNOWN ROKG HAD RECEIVED PRIVATE DENIAL OF BUGGING FROM US GOVERNMENT. I REITERATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT ON SUCH A STORY. WHEN PAK STRESSED THAT WE SHOULD ISSUE DENIAL OF BUGGING STORY BECAUSE ROK WAS FRIENDLY COUNTRY, I REITERATED THAT THIS WAS GLOBAL POLICY AND POINTED OUT GREAT DIFFICULTIES A DENIAL IN ONE CASE WOULD CAUSE US WITH OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

3. COLDER AND MORE AGITATED THAN I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SEEN HIM, PAK SAID HE WAS GREATLY SURPRISED BY OUR ANSWER; HE
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HAD THOUGHT THAT WE ONLY HAD ONE RECOURSE: TO DENY THE

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BUGGING STORY. HE DID NOT THINK, HE SAID, THAT OTHER EXPLANATIONS WOULD SATISFY THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WHEN HE MEETS WITH THEM NOVEMBER 4. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP.

4. COMMENT: ONE AMERICAN NEWSMAN (KRISHER OF NEWS-WEEK) HAS ALREADY BEEN HEARD ABOUT OUR PRIVATE DENIAL OF BUGGING. WHEN HE ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION, WE GAVE HIM FIRM "NO COMMENT". I ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL NOW BE FURTHER LEAKS OF OUR PRIVATE STATEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEILLANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ALLEGATIONS, NEWS LEAKS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL08800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840096-1707
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761185/aaaacvup.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 269983
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED BUGGING OF BLUE HOUSE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, US, (PAK TONG-CHIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006